

stimulus news DIGEST



July 2009

Stimulus funds spread far, wide in Valley: The stimulus funding coming to the Valley will help fund many projects across the board. The Fresno County Workforce Investment Board got \$18 million in stimulus money; used to help put 3,000 students in summer jobs, provide vocational training to former Elkhorn Correctional Facility youths and to teach adults who lost their jobs new skills in health care and other expanding industries. At least \$58 million is earmarked for dozens of transportation-related projects in Fresno County. Two affordable-housing developments, delayed after their complicated tax-credit financing sources dried up, got the financing from the stimulus act – more than \$16 million combined. Valley officials have their eyes on more than \$1.1 billion in stimulus money, enough to fund 26 regional initiatives on the eight-county San Joaquin Valley Partnership's wish list. (*"Stimulus funds spread far, wide in Valley," The Fresno Bee, 7/20/09*)

Stimulus Helps Bring Calif. Petcoke Plant Closer to Reality: A proposed power plant in Southern California that would turn coal and waste petroleum into clean-burning gas has garnered support from the state and stimulus funds from the federal government. The plant was recently awarded a \$308 million grant from the \$787 billion ARRA. It is the largest grant yet from the Department of Energy's Clean Coal Power Initiative and one of the largest single awards in President Obama's stimulus package. The 250-megawatt facility is designed to filter out 90 percent of its carbon dioxide for permanent underground storage in an adjacent oil field. An additional 100 megawatts would be available for peak-hour generation to help integrate more intermittent wind and solar power into the California grid. (*"Stimulus Helps Bring Calif. Petcoke Plant Closer to Reality," The New York Times, 7/20/09*)

Zenergy Power gets \$8M in stimulus funding: Zenergy Power Inc. got more than \$8 million from the Department of Energy to design, test and demonstrate technology that temporarily absorbs power to avoid blackouts. South San Francisco-based Zenergy's fault current limiter has been described as a "surge protector for the electric grid." The DOE award will help Zenergy build a larger fault current limiter capable of absorbing more power that can be installed at an electric transmission station. The Department of Energy money is part of a \$57 million program in the Recovery and Reinvestment act dedicated to advance the smart grid. The Department of Energy said Monday it had assigned \$47 million of that so far. (*"Zenergy Power gets \$8M in stimulus funding," San Francisco Business Times, 7/20/09*)

Sonoma County Sees Stimulus Funds at Work: As part of the larger package, the county and its cities are in line for about \$15 million in road and street improvements from the infrastructure portion of the stimulus bill. In addition to the \$1.2 million Sonoma County is already using for the summer youth job program, the county is on track to get \$1.9 million in federal stimulus funds to help retrain unemployed people and assist job seekers. The county also will get \$1.5 million in stimulus funds to remodel the terminal at the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport. Santa Rosa has more than \$10 million of stimulus money for such things as police officer salaries, buying new buses and starting energy efficiency programs. (*"Stimulus funding still a trickle," The Press Democrat, 7/16/09*)

Holder Using Stimulus Money to Fight Drug Cartels on Mexican Border: Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Wednesday that \$8.7 million in economic stimulus funds would be spent helping various law enforcement agencies in California defeat Mexican drug cartels at the nation's southwestern border. In all, the initiative will include 20 economic stimulus grants totaling \$30 million. That money will create and retain 168 jobs, Holder said. Of the new funds, more than \$2.8 million will pay for 10 new positions on a task force involving several law enforcement agencies in the border town of Chula Vista, Calif. More than \$800,000 will provide a new automated intelligence management system to track distribution of Mexican drug trafficking groups in San Mateo County, just south of San

Francisco; and nearly \$5 million will create a 16-member uniformed team in San Diego County to patrol the border. That team will include a deputy district attorney to prosecute cases. (*"Holder Using Stimulus Money to Fight Drug Cartels on Mexican Border," The National Law Journal, 7/16/09*)

CCSF Awarded Federal Stimulus Funds: City College of San Francisco (CCSF) is among eleven recipients of nearly \$10 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) funds to launch regional California Green Job Corps pilot programs throughout the state. The \$931,087 award from the Federal Recovery Act funds will be matched by CCSF. As one of four Bay Area recipients of the California Green Jobs Corps funding, CCSF will provide job training and community service opportunities in California's emerging green economy. Statewide 1,500 at-risk young adults aged 16–24 will be served and they in turn will help to create a cleaner environment as well as spur economic growth in California. (*"CCSF Awarded Federal Stimulus Funds," Mission Dispatch, 7/14/2009*)

Federal funds will help local school districts feed students: Federally funded extra freezer space, clean ovens and an energy efficient dishwasher that actually removes gunk will help Butte and Glenn county school districts feed students. Seven Butte County school districts will receive \$220,295 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to buy food service equipment, according to the California Department of Education. Willows Unified School District will get \$16,729, being the only Glenn County school to be approved for those stimulus funds. Priority for the funding was given to sites that have 50 percent or more enrollment eligibility for reduced price meals, according to the California Department of Education. California schools received \$12.8 million in 2009 Equipment Assistance Grants, while the education department got requests for \$70 million in kitchen supplies. (*"Federal funds will help local school districts feed students," Oroville Mercury Register, 7/14/09*)

Schools seek recycled water: Three local schools could become the newest users of recycled water if Glendale Water & Power receives \$800,000 in stimulus funds under an application the City Council authorized Tuesday. The utility will submit a formal application for an \$800,000 grant from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which received more than \$280 million in stimulus funding. As a part of the utility's five-year strategic plan, which was presented to the City Council in March, city officials hope to increase the use of recycled water to 2,500 acres by 2014. (*"Schools seek recycled water," Glendale News Press, 7/14/09*)

New transit depot OK'd: The City Council gave the go-ahead Tuesday night to build a new bus depot using \$1.5 million in federal stimulus money awarded to the city last week. The city will install six bus shelters at West Hawkeye Avenue and North Golden State Boulevard, across the street

from the current depot, which moved from downtown in August 2007. Lazar, who lobbied for the federal money during a January visit to Washington, D.C., said Turlock was the San Joaquin Valley's only recipient of money in the latest round of stimulus transit grants. Federal officials Friday announced 58 grants amounting to \$473 million throughout the United States. (*"New transit depot OK'd," Modesto Bee, 7/14/09*)

Local credit union receives stimulus funds to expand community services: A local credit union has received \$2 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which will allow it to expand key lending services on the North Coast. Mendo Lake Credit Union was one of 59 community development financial institutions (CDFIs) across the country that was awarded almost \$90 million in funding through a competitive grant process. Mendo Lake Credit Union is the No. 1 auto loan lender in Lake County. It also works with many small businesses – including many "mom and pops" – and offers free checking services to businesses and individuals. The funding will allow the credit union to expand its operations back into real estate lending, he said, explaining that the credit union has had first-time home-buyer and manufactured housing loan programs for many years, and has been successful in getting people into their own homes. (*"Local credit union receives stimulus funds to expand community services," Lake County News, 7/13/09*)

Stimulus funds give youth jobs a boost: More than 4,000 Inland youths are getting jobs this summer thanks to an influx of more than \$10 million in federal dollars from President Barack Obama's stimulus plan. Officials in both counties say they are focusing on disadvantaged youths who otherwise would be unemployed. Riverside County is doling out \$5.7 million in federal funds to several area employers from the public and private sectors. San Bernardino County's work force investment board is putting about \$5.1 million toward the summer jobs program in the form of wages, stipends and supportive services and expects to employ 1,834 youths through the summer, officials said. More than 700 are already at work. (*"Stimulus funds give youth jobs a boost," The Press-Enterprise, 7/13/09*)

San Gabriel Valley cities get stimulus money to help the homeless: Department of Housing and Urban Development officials announced Thursday that \$1.2 billion in stimulus funds have been approved for more than 400 cities across the nation through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. In the San Gabriel Valley, El Monte, Pasadena, Alhambra, Baldwin Park and Pomona have been given funds to help families avoid becoming homeless. El Monte received \$1,110,506, Pasadena \$908,395, Baldwin Park \$605,041, Alhambra \$567,605, Pomona \$1,164,766, Norwalk \$633,782, Downey \$611,834 and Los Angeles County will get \$12,197,108. (*"San Gabriel Valley cities get stimulus money to help the homeless," San Gabriel Valley Tribune, 7/12/09*)

Radio Bilingue, Valley arts group get stimulus grants: A massive economic stimulus plan has now trickled down to Fresno's famed Radio Bilingue and a traditional arts organization that serves the San Joaquin Valley.

Radio Bilingue is receiving a \$25,000 grant as part of the stimulus program. The Alliance for California Traditional Arts, which also maintains an office in San Francisco, is receiving a \$50,000 federal grant. The California Arts Council is receiving \$502,400, which is considerably more than any other state. The local arts grants, in turn, are only a tiny portion of the overall \$787 billion economic stimulus package that also is funding Madera County bridge improvements, a San Luis National Wildlife Refuge cultural resources survey and road resurfacing at Lemoore Naval Air Station, among dozens of other Valley projects. (*"Radio Bilingue, Valley arts group get stimulus grants," Fresno Bee, 7/12/09*)

Stimulus funds flood Tri-Counties: The Bureau of Reclamation will make available \$20 million in federal economic recovery funding for the design, planning, and construction of the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) Project in Ventura County. The project is one of 27 water reclamation and reuse projects that will share in a total of \$134.3 million under the federal Recovery Act. Santa Barbara will receive \$4.3 million of the total \$400 million allocated to improving California's transit infrastructure through the city. In Ventura County, federal stimulus funds will be directed through the California Recovery Task Force for youth job training and gang prevention programs. Through the program, agencies in Ventura County will receive funding intended to provide job training and education programs targeting youth ages 14 to 24 that are at risk of joining gangs or seeking to leave them. (*"Stimulus funds flood Tri-Counties," Pacific Coast Business Times, 7/11/09*)

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

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Tracking ARRA spending by federal, state and local agencies.

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Dozens of S.F. arts groups win stimulus grants: The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded \$1.5 million in stimulus funds to 37 San Francisco arts organizations. According to the city Arts Commission, as of January 2008, some 4,837 arts-related businesses were located in the city, employing 29,561 people. Luis R. Cancel, the city's director of cultural affairs, said the funds come at a critical time because many organizations "are facing drastic budget and staffing cuts as a direct result of the recession's impact on revenue and private giving." (*"Dozens of S.F. arts groups win stimulus grants," San Francisco Chronicle, 7/11/09*)

\$500K stimulus to aid Lakewood water recycling: Nearly a half-million dollars in federal stimulus funds will allow a water treatment facility to double its water recycling capacity, officials said today. The Water Replenishment District of Southern California will use the \$478,750 in federal stimulus funds to expand the Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility, also known as the Alamitos Barrier Recycled Water Project. Expansion of the Vander Lans facility will double its water recycling capacity, supplying almost one billion gallons of recycled water, offsetting the remaining imported water used at the Alamitos Barrier with recycled water. (*"\$500K stimulus to aid Lakewood water recycling," Contra Costa Times, 7/10/09*)

Stimulus money targeted to help the homeless: The U.S. expects to send \$1.5 billion in stimulus money Thursday to hundreds of communities around the country to prevent homelessness, including \$1 million for Fresno to dismantle tent cities and move residents into privately owned apartments. Fresno is expected to receive \$3 million for its home-

lessness initiatives, with one-third of that amount aimed at relocating people in tent cities. Using more than \$500,000 from the city's general fund, Fresno has so far moved 56 of about 150 people in one of the camps into housing, said Gregory Barfield, the city's homeless prevention and policy manager. The city's plan to act as tenant to private landlords and then sublease apartments to the homeless relies on at least some residents finding a job or receiving money through public assistance, Barfield said. (*"Stimulus money targeted to help the homeless," Associated Press, 7/9/09*)

June 2009

Stimulus funds for health centers, job training: More than \$109 million in grants will be doled out to health centers for low-income people in California and \$10 million more will be devoted to training poor and at-risk youth for green-energy jobs as part of the latest round of federal stimulus funding announced Monday. The health grants, which will be available to about 500 community clinics statewide, are designed to help the centers buy equipment, improve clinic facilities, and adopt or expand the use of health information technology and electronic health records. The jobs training funds will go to 11 programs in California - four in the Bay Area - which will receive \$10 million to prepare youths for jobs such as solar panel repair, water treatment and home energy auditing. The money will be matched by each of the recipient schools where the training will take place. (*"Stimulus funds for health centers, job training," San Francisco Chronicle, 6/30/09*)

Sac State collects \$333K from feds: California State University, Sacramento will receive \$332,555 in federal stimulus money for science and math programs. A total of \$257,795 will go toward the study techniques for sampling hydrocarbon emissions vegetation, a process known as solid phase microextraction. Another grant of \$74,760 will be awarded from the federal Noyce Teaching Fellowship Program to provide funds for a collaboration by the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the College of Education to create training programs for math and science teachers. (*"Sac State collects \$333K from feds," Sacramento Business Journal, 6/24/09*)

Office of the Small Business Advocate News Briefing: Local Green Job Corps Funded By Stimulus: \$10 million in federal stimulus money will go to create regional California Green Job Corps pilot programs. The money will be shared by 11 recipients, including San Mateo County, City College of San Francisco, and Peralta Community College District in

Alameda. The programs will offer job training and community service opportunities for 1,500 at-risk youth ages 16-24. The aim is to help create a cleaner environment and spur economic growth in California. "The California Green Jobs Corps will help 1,500 at-risk young adults realize a brighter future while stimulating our economy and working toward a greener California," said Governor Schwarzenegger. (*"Local green job corps funded by stimulus," SF Business Times, 6/29/09*)

Stimulus Funds Assist University Research In Sacramento, Davis: Federal stimulus money is pushing forward a wave of scientific research across the nation. About \$8.35 million of stimulus funds has been awarded to Sacramento-area universities, with about \$8 million going to UC Davis and \$350,000 to California State University, Sacramento. Some Sac State professors are using their stimulus funds to create summer research jobs for two college students and a high school student, and to develop a program that would train more math and science teachers for area high schools. Other projects include a team of UC Davis scientists building a highly specialized microscope and research by a neurobiologist and a mathematician at UC Davis into how an animal's nervous system coordinates movements in various parts of the body. (*"Stimulus Funds Assist University Research in Sacramento, Davis," The Modesto Bee, 6/29/09*)

Fund Allows 20 Youth to Find Summer Jobs in Watsonville: As a result of recent stimulus funding, Central Coast Energy Services (CCES) has 20 immediate job openings for youth, ages 18-24, for training, development and work in the weatherization of low-income homes. The CCC's funding for the job openings comes from a grant from the California Environment and Energy Recovery Corps (CEERC) AmeriCorps. Central Coast Energy Services expects to receive close to \$4 million over the next 2 years in weatherization dollars from the Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE WAP), as part of ARRA. (*"Fund Allow 20 Youth to Find Summer Jobs in Watsonville," KION Central Coast News, 6/27/09*)

East Bay Green Corridor Grows, Cash Pours In: The East Bay Green Corridor, which held its second annual summit on Friday in Oakland, said it has attracted more than \$76 million in federal stimulus funds for research, job training, weatherization and other environmentally themed projects. The purpose of the consortium is for the cities and schools to attract green businesses to the region, develop a solid green-collar workforce, share marketing costs and standardize across the region policies such as solar financing plans and green building standards. (*"East Bay Green Corridor Grows, Cash Pours In," SF Chronicle, 6/27/09*)

With Stimulus Funds, Martinez Adopts "Climate Action Plan:"

The city developed the "climate action plan" with three goals in mind — reducing greenhouse gas emissions, shifting to renewable resources and preparing for a changing climate. The first action is applying for \$150,800 in federal stimulus funds to purchase LED streetlights. LED lights use less energy, require less maintenance and have a longer life span than metal halide lights, according to Michael Chandler, senior management analyst. The city will replace 64 lights along Marina Vista Avenue and 33 on Main Street. If there is money left over, the city may replace some lights on the fishing pier at the marina, Chandler said. Other initiatives include improving crosswalks, sidewalks and other infrastructure to increase the number of students who walk or bike to school; implementing the state green building standards code this summer; and revising the municipal purchasing policy to buy fewer disposable items. Martinez is also looking for funding to buy electric or hybrid vehicles. (Martinez adopts "climate action plan," *Mercury News*, 6/23/09)

Stimulus Funds Help Rapid Growth of CA 'Green-Collar' Jobs:

California led the United States with about 124,000 green-collar jobs in 2007. "Green-collar" hiring took a hit during the current recession, but may accelerate beyond its 1998-2007 growth rate of about 9 percent a year - more than double the 3.7 percent growth rate for traditional jobs. With policymakers churning out fresh legislation - including the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill, along with upcoming renewable electricity standards and possible measures to cap carbon-dioxide emissions - green-collar advocates hope for more job creation in the near future even as the economy struggles. (CA 'Green-collar' jobs show rapid growth in bad times," *Boston Herald*, 6/22/09)

California Rail to Garner Big Chunk of Stimulus: California's high speed rail project likely will get a chunk of federal stimulus money, with the state poised as a front-runner to receive some of the \$8 billion in stimulus money allotted for rail projects. David Crane, Governor Schwarzenegger's special advisor for jobs and economic growth, says the state will ask for as much of that federal stimulus money as it can get. "The amount that we will apply for is up to all of the federal financing that is available, which is \$8 billion," said Crane. "We obviously don't expect to get all of it, but we expect to get a good deal of it." California is considered a front runner for the stimulus money because of bonds approved by the voters last November to help fund the state's high speed rail project. ("CA Rail to Garner Big Chunk of Stimulus," *KCBS Local News*, 06/20/09)

San Andreas Sanitary District Receives Stimulus Money:

\$10.575 million from the federal stimulus package will be used to make improvements to the San Andreas Wastewater Treatment Plant. The improvements are designed to bring the plant into compliance with current water quality

standards. The San Andreas Sanitary District manages the collection and treatment of wastewater for the greater San Andreas area, about 2,300 residents. Half of the funding will come in the form of a grant and the other half from a one-percent low interest loan. ("San Andreas Sanitary District Receives Stimulus Money," *MyMotherLode.com*, 6/18/09)

San Mateo Uses Stimulus Money for Green Projects:

San Mateo secured an \$875,800 grant and will use the money to put a solar system on the roof of the Main Library, replace 193 street lights with light emitting diode bulbs and implement a residential energy audit with a "tune-up" program. The three projects will save the city approximately \$65,000 a year in energy costs and reduce the city's carbon footprint by 69 tons a year. When the library project is completed, the city may also reap a 30 percent federal tax credit of about \$120,000. ("San Mateo to use stimulus money for conservation," *San Mateo Daily Journal*, 6/17/09)

Stimulus Money to Pay for Food for Elderly:

Federal stimulus money will pay for hundreds more meals for elderly Inland residents as well as for employment and on-the-job training for seniors who are laid off or forced to re-enter the work force. Riverside County's Office on Aging will receive about \$174,000 for its senior employment program and almost \$480,000 to fund additional home-delivered and group meals. San Bernardino County already received more than \$91,000 for senior jobs and more than \$452,000 for meals, said Sandy Decker, administrative supervisor for the county's Office on Aging. ("Stimulus Money to Pay for Food for Elderly," *The Press Enterprise*, 6/15/09)

SFMTA Receives \$67.2 Million from Stimulus Funds:

The San Francisco MTA is receiving \$67.2 million for a variety of maintenance and renovation projects including reconditioning doors and steps on 150 light rail vehicles and preventative maintenance on buses. The funding will mean an estimated 2,000 jobs, either saved or created, some in the private sector. Transit advocate Stuart Cohen says the money could not come at a better time, with the state cutting a billion dollars from transit. ("\$100M in stimulus funding for local transit," *ABC TV KGO-TV*, 6/10/09)

Palm Springs Awarded \$1.8 Million in Stimulus Dollars

for New Park: \$1.8 million in federal stimulus dollars will be coming to Palm Springs for a new park to be located at the City's entryway on the southwest corner of Gene Autry Trail and Vista Chino. The funds will pay for the park's construction as well as median and parkway landscaping on Gene Autry Trail between Vista Chino and Via Escuela. The City applied for the park to be funded by the federal stimulus package in March after plans for its construction were postponed due to a lack of available funds in California. (*"Palm Springs Awarded \$1.8 Million in Stimulus Dollars for New Park," The Desert Sun, 6/8/09*)

Sanitary District Gets Stimulus Money to Upgrade Plant:

\$10 million in federal stimulus money will go to the San Andreas Sanitary District in Calaveras County to help it upgrade its wastewater plant. The \$5.84 million grant and \$4.74 million loan at 1 percent interest are part of the money awarded to California for clean water projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, according to the State Water Board, which allocates the money. The water treatment plant upgrades are designed to eliminate contaminants in discharges that flow down the Calaveras River and ultimately into Stockton's drinking water supply. (*"Sanitary District Gets Stimulus," The Record, 6/3/09*)

Early Spring 2009

LA Uses Stimulus Money to Hire 7,000 Teens & Young Adults:

\$20.3 million of stimulus money from the federal government will go towards Hire LA, the city's program to place 16- to 24-year-olds in summer and permanent full time jobs around the city. Hire LA will create over 16,000 jobs for Los Angeles youth and set them on-course toward a steady paycheck and a better life," Mayor Villaraigosa said. In all, 7,388 positions will come from stimulus money. The remaining 8,500 positions will be funded through the annual programs from the city, school and community college district and private sector. (*"LA Uses Stimulus Money to Hire 7,000 Teens & Young Adults," LAist, 5/9/09*)

Stimulus Cash Being Used to Buy Hybrid Buses: Santa Monica plans on using its \$12.8 million to reinvigorate its Big Blue Bus transit services. They are planning to allocate the funds by purchasing: 10 new 30-foot gasoline-electric hybrid buses for use on neighborhood Mini Blue lines, three 60-foot flexible articulated buses that will be added to the busy Rapid 3 and Rapid 7 lines, and up to three 40-foot alternative fueled buses that will replace several of the agency's older diesel models. While the purchase will not create jobs in Santa Monica, the millions spent on the buses will instead help businesses in Riverside and Poway, nearby Los Angeles communities. (*"Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus Using Stimulus Cash to Buy Hybrids," LAist, 3/22/09*)

